

LYNWOOD - Working to provide children and parents with the resources to keep their schools safe and productive, Congresswoman Linda Sánchez hosted a Back to School Fair in Lynwood. Held at the City Park, the fair offered an opportunity for parents to receive important information that they can use to help children stay safe in school and make healthy choices in life.

Sánchez' Back to School Fair took place as part of Children's Health Month (October), which was designated to promote better overall health and nutrition, increased immunizations, school violence prevention, and general safety.

"The safety, education, and well being of our children are among my highest priorities. This fair was designed to provide parents and students with information and resources on children's health and school violence. I appreciate all of the local organizations who helped to make this event such a success," Sánchez said.

Over 1,000 children and parents from the Lynwood area took part in the fair. Eighteen community and state organizations such as the California Highway Patrol, the Lynwood Sheriff's and Fire Departments, Safe Moves, Los Angeles Eye Institute, and the Violence Prevention Coalition were on hand to talk with children about the importance of their education and health. The children were also able to show off their talents in the karaoke, dance and singing contests that helped make the event both informative and entertaining.

"By teaching our children to make good decisions about their safety, education, and health, families can help our young people reach their full potential, become leaders in their community, and make our city, country, and world even better," Sánchez said.

Since being elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, Sánchez has fought to make schools safe and secure for our children. Sánchez recently introduced the "School Safety and Violence Prevention Act" (H.R. 2641), which would provide grants to states to start anti-bullying programs, including education, counseling, mentoring, and peer programs. The bill would also give money to a statewide hotline for anonymous reporting by students and staff of information on bullying.

"Bullying takes away students' ability to learn, to feel safe, and to develop strong self esteem. For too long it has been a problem that has been overlooked. Now, parents, teachers and school leaders are taking this problem seriously. We need to send a clear message □ bullying has to stop," Sánchez concluded.